



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 24 2014

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Cotton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cotton:

Thank you for your letter dated October 30, 2013, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the 2014 volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. The Administrator has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

On November 29, 2013, the EPA published in the *Federal Register* a proposed rule that would establish the 2014 RFS volume standards. In developing the proposed volumes, the EPA used the most recent data available and took into consideration multiple factors. Our analysis included an evaluation of both the expected availability of qualifying renewable fuels as well as factors that, in some cases, limit supplying those fuels to the vehicles and equipment that can consume them. On the basis of our analysis, we proposed to reduce the required volumes from statutory levels for 2014 for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel. We proposed to maintain the same volume for biomass-based diesel for 2014 and 2015 as was adopted for 2013, but we have requested comment on whether to raise the biomass-based diesel volume requirement.

I want to emphasize that this is a proposal, and that the EPA has requested comment on many aspects of the proposed rule, including the methodology for determining volumes. The EPA also expects to receive additional data before finalizing the rule. We will take your input under consideration as we, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy, work towards finalizing this rule. Your letter has been placed in the rulemaking docket.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [lewis.josh@epa.gov](mailto:lewis.josh@epa.gov) or (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet G. McCabe", is positioned above the typed name.

Janet G. McCabe  
Acting Assistant Administrator